

SAFETY BULLETIN

SB01-020 WATER SAFETY

June 2001 (Initial)

The National Safe Boating Council and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) remind recreational boaters that the best **"insurance policy"** against accidental drowning is to wear a personal flotation device (PFD), or more known as a life jacket. Over the years, countless lives have been saved because boating accident victims were wearing PFDs. This safety bulletin will address three areas: Swimming, Boating, and Personal Water Craft (PWC).

SWIMMING:

- Never drink alcohol and swim.
- Never swim alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer.
- Always have adult supervision for small children.
- Know your ability and do not exceed it.
- Non-swimmers should stay in shallow water, if needed use a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- Only swim in authorized swimming areas.
- Before diving, make sure the water is deep enough.

BOAT SAFETY:

- Never drink alcohol and operate a boat.
- Inspect the boat and ensure that you have enough PFDs for each of your passengers, a fire extinguisher, whistle or horn, paddles, first-aid kit, extra rope for towing, flashlight, basic tool kit, flares, if needed by law.
- Never jump into a boat, step into the center.
- Never overload the boat, know the weight limit.
- Watch for other boaters and start slowly.
- Ensure **ALL** children and non-swimmers wear PDFs at all times.
- Operate at safe speeds.